



ELECTION CHECKSTONES OF FUEN

Elections to the European Parliament from 6 to 9 June 2024

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Answers by Rasmus Andresen, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Alliance 90/The Greens), Germany

- 1. Will you advocate for the stronger engagement by the EU institutions, particularly the European Commission, to protect autochthonous national minorities and language groups? Will you support the development of a comprehensive set of legal and policy standards for a more advanced protection and equal treatment of minority rights in the EU? Will you support the full implementation of the Copenhagen criteria, particularly the provisions on minority rights protection, in the EU candidate countries? If yes, how?**

Yes, I want to keep up the pressure on the EU Commission in the coming legislative period to finally recognise the protection and support of national minorities and language communities as its full area of responsibility. To this end, I want to seek intensive dialogue, particularly in the early phase of the personnel realignment and priority realignment of the Commission, in order to promote and raise awareness of this issue within the Commission.

Strengthening national minorities and autochthonous ethnic groups is a matter close to my heart and is very important to me personally, also as a minority Dane from Flensburg. My party, which together with the EFA party makes up a parliamentary group in the EU Parliament, fully shares this demand.

Within the European Parliament, I was already part of the successful efforts to mobilise a broad majority for the MSPI in the outgoing legislative period, and I also want to be a strong voice for the concerns of national minorities within the EU institutions in the coming legislative period, for example in the upcoming negotiations on the revision of the Geo-blocking Directive.

2. Do you agree the EU needs a stronger political representation of national minorities and language groups? How could the political representation of minorities in the European institutions be guaranteed? Will you support the re-establishment of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament? Are you committed to working for a more minority-friendly electoral system in your Member State for the next European elections?

Yes, I agree with you that there is a need for stronger political representation of national minorities and language communities.

Through the grouping between the Green parties and the EFA in our joint Greens/EFA group, we as a group have already made a clear and binding commitment to the institutionalised involvement of elected representatives from national minorities and ethnic groups in all our decision-making processes and positioning. As part of the Danish minority, I am very aware of how important representation is for political decision-making processes.

I fully support the re-establishment of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages. I was already an active member in the current parliamentary term and plan to be again if I am re-elected.

European electoral law at federal level already offers relatively low-threshold access for smaller parties, including minority parties, due to the absence of a blocking clause. At the same time, I am in favour of bringing the concerns of national minorities and ethnic groups into the entire spectrum of large and small parties.

The Europeanisation of electoral law also creates new opportunities. Through transnational lists, minority parties that may receive too little support individually in their own countries can obtain seats in the EU Parliament as part of a European organisation.

3. Do you agree more meaningful dialogue and exchange between policymakers and minorities' experts and civil society is needed? Will you support the establishment of the Advisory Group on minority issues under the auspices of the European Commission and the European Forum of national and linguistic minorities to consult both the EU and the Council of Europe? Through which other channels or mechanisms can such sustainable exchange and consultations be ensured?

I am in favour of an institutionalised dialogue with minority experts and civil society. However, to ensure that the recommendations of these actors do not come to nothing, there is an even greater need for clear personnel responsibility on the part of the EU Commission to ensure that these suggestions from minorities are taken on board and proactively fed into the EU Commission's decision-making processes.